

This is a reachback appropriation for an unauthorized program and, therefore, I am sorry I must insist on my point of order. I will also point out that it would be irresponsible to cut this budget bill by \$425 million.

Public Law 110-28 did not reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Act.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to be heard.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. TIAHRT. I appreciate the chairman and his accuracy on what he is reserving a point of order on.

However, I would like to point out that we have other issues pending that are also subject to a point of order. It seems arbitrary to me that we do not let the House work its will on Mr. DOOLITTLE's efforts, and yet we move forward on other areas which are under the same point of order, and we expect some comity.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I don't think the gentleman is addressing the point of order.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair will hear any Member on the point of order.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I think that this is an arbitrary reservation on a point of order, and because other similar issues are pending, that it should be withdrawn so that we can move on and let the House work its will.

Mr. DICKS. I insist on my point of order.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A point of order is pending. The gentleman may not strike the last word.

Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The proponent of an item of appropriation carries the burden of persuasion on the question whether it is supported by an authorization in law.

Having reviewed the amendment and entertained argument on the point of order, the Chair is unable to conclude that the item of appropriation contained in the amendment is authorized in law.

Under the precedents of July 12, 1995, as recorded in House Practice at page 145, and July 16, 1997, an amendment adding matter at the pending portion of the bill to effect an indirect increase in an unauthorized amount permitted to remain in a portion of the bill already passed in the reading is not "merely perfecting" for purposes of clause 2(a) of rule XXI.

The Chair is therefore constrained to sustain the point of order under clause 2(a) of rule XXI.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. I want to say how badly I feel about this because this Secure Rural Schools program is a very important program in the northwest, as well as in California. But I just could not allow this amendment to come for a vote because it would have cut \$425 million out of this bill.

□ 1415

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, we have an issue pending which is going to come up, I think, rather quickly, from the gentleman from Oregon who is worried about the very same issue, and he's coming at it from a slightly different angle.

And, yes, the gentleman from California was having offsets for his cuts, but I see no ill will in allowing the House to work its will on Mr. DOOLITTLE's amendment, which affects Western States deeply. It's very similar to what the gentleman from Oregon is also trying to do, so why don't we just let both of them go, let the House work its will?

Mr. DICKS. I regret that I can't take that chance. If this amendment were enacted, it would have a devastating consequence on this bill. And it was subject to a point of order, and I had to insist on it. I regret that we have this controversy, but that's the reality of the situation we're in.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. I'd like to yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to express my deep disappointment that we're not able to move forward on the gentleman's amendment from California, and the peril that it may put the next amendment in.

If you want to talk about cuts in crisis, you come out to rural Oregon, rural Washington, rural Northern California, the areas that my friend and colleague from Washington knows all too well.

The largest county in my district had 15 or 16 libraries, all of which are now shuttered and closed because this Congress and the last failed to reauthorize the Secure County Roads and Schools legislation that the Congress before, in 2000, put into law.

The effect of all that, and the effect of this not going forward is those counties have a 1-year stay of execution because in the emergency supplemental there was legislation that funded them for one more year.

But as the good gentleman from Washington State knows, with the decline in the timber industry, the decline in harvest on Federal lands, these rural counties have been devastated.

They have no tax base in some cases, or very little; 70, 80 percent of land mass is Federal lands. There's been a commitment for 100 years by this Congress to share revenues, and then those revenues went away. Law enforcement is going away. Basic services. You all would throw a fit if they went away in Washington, D.C. or any other urban area.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. The point I'd like to make, this is an authorization problem. This isn't supposed to be handled on the appropriations bill. We had an agreement that we would help you do this for 1 year, but then you would go back to the Natural Resources Committee and find the mandatory spending to offset this. This is not an appropriations matter.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Reclaiming my time, I understand, and I appreciate what the gentleman has done to assist us in the past. My frustration is the one I have to share, because when I go home, people don't understand why we can keep funding all these other things and can't take care of sort of an organic funding issue that affects them deeply.

The first bill I cosponsored in this Congress with my colleague from Oregon, Mr. DeFAZIO, and many others was to reauthorize this program. I believe the first letter I sent was to the new chairman of the Resources Committee begging for a hearing to reauthorize this program.

The folks at home don't understand this process, and sometimes neither do I. But if we have to bring down the House to try and get help to people who deserve it, then that's what we'll have to do.

It's really unfortunate that we would abrogate this commitment to these people in rural areas and not allow us at least to move forward, and certainly with the next amendment, which merely fixes a technical correction, allows the Resource advisory committees to go forward, but spends no money.

Mr. TIAHRT. Reclaiming my time, I just want to point out to the chairman that we're now picking winners and losers, and it's an arbitrary decision. And if we allowed the House to work its will, I think the gentleman would be successful and his worries would be abated.

But right now we've gone into this selection process of who's going to win and who's going to lose. The gentleman from California loses, the other gentleman from Oregon wins. And I don't think that's right. I think we ought to have a consistent manner to move forward.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIAHRT. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. The only thing I would say here is that you can raise a point of